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Area Wage Survey
Des Moines, IA
July 1991

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Summary
September 1991

This summary presents results of a July 1991 survey of occupational wages in the Des Moines Metropolitan Statistical Area, which consists of Dallas, Polk, and Warren Counties. This is 1 of over 110 areas which the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys annually or every other year at the request of the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. In addition, the Bureau conducts more extensive studies of occupational wages and related benefits in 90 other areas throughout the United States. For information on these reports and other Bureau publications, contact any BLS regional office identified on the back page.

This study covered establishments employing 50 workers or more in manufacturing; transportation, communications, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. A sample of 120 establishments employing 52,208 workers was selected to represent 413 establishments employing 82,307 workers in the area. Data collected in the sample of establishments were projected to represent all establishments within the scope of the survey.

Table 1 provides hourly earnings information on office and plant workers employed in selected occupations common to a variety of industries. Occupational classification was based on a uniform set of job descriptions designed to take account of variations in job duties among establishments. The job descriptions used in the survey are available on request. (See table 2 for further information on the scope of the survey.)

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Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Des Moines, IA, July 1991

Occupation[2]	Number of workers	Hourly earnings (in dollars)[3]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																					
		Mean	Median	Middle range	4.25 and under 5.00	5.00 – 6.00	6.00 – 7.00	7.00 – 8.00	8.00 – 9.00	9.00 – 10.00	10.00 – 11.00	11.00 – 12.00	12.00 – 13.00	13.00 – 14.00	14.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 16.00	16.00 – 17.00	17.00 – 18.00	18.00 – 19.00	19.00 – 20.00	20.00 – 21.00	21.00 – 22.00	22.00 – 23.00	23.00 – 24.00	24.00 – 25.00	25.00 – 26.00	26.00 and over
Accounting clerks	1,335	8.01	7.80	6.75– 8.80	1	87	329	345	281	118	47	93	19	7	3	3	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Accounting clerks I	89	7.89	7.48	6.00–11.00	–	19	18	14	11	2	–	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Accounting clerks II	808	7.88	7.35	6.81– 8.50	1	68	232	207	176	81	14	46	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Accounting clerks III	380	8.49	7.99	7.12– 9.84	–	–	77	113	76	42	29	19	13	5	3	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Accounting clerks IV	54	9.85	9.02	8.45–10.05	–	–	–	9	18	13	4	3	3	2	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
File clerks	283	5.99	5.82	5.12– 6.47	46	111	66	19	6	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
File clerks I	185	5.47	5.30	5.06– 5.82	45	103	30	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
File clerks II	98	6.97	6.52	6.24– 7.48	1	8	36	12	6	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Key entry operators	467	7.17	6.98	6.31– 7.72	3	34	199	134	65	20	7	1	3	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Key entry operators I	339	6.82	6.70	6.20– 7.33	3	34	169	100	22	7	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Key entry operators II	129	8.07	8.10	7.09– 8.70	–	–	30	34	43	13	5	–	3	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Messengers	144	6.12	5.82	5.39– 6.33	7	90	30	–	9	7	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Order clerks	145	7.02	6.75	6.02– 7.95	–	19	61	33	27	2	2	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Order clerks I	115	6.80	6.40	6.00– 7.25	–	19	61	26	7	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Order clerks II	30	8.62	8.50	8.50– 8.83	–	–	–	7	20	–	2	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Payroll clerks	88	9.02	8.43	7.29–10.20	–	–	6	34	7	14	14	2	7	3	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Receptionists	43	6.81	6.74	6.40– 7.70	–	5	20	17	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries	875	9.81	9.50	8.25–11.11	–	2	49	110	192	165	122	106	56	37	19	9	5	1	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries I	131	7.73	7.50	6.75– 8.28	–	2	41	37	31	13	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries II	323	8.77	8.72	8.03– 9.52	–	–	7	67	119	88	37	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries III	285	10.79	10.72	9.80–11.78	–	–	1	2	36	58	55	74	31	19	9	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries IV	104	12.16	11.75	10.84–13.22	–	–	–	–	2	6	23	25	18	18	7	5	2	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries V	26	13.50	13.38	12.25–14.02	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	7	6	3	2	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Switchboard operators	35	6.54	6.55	5.25– 7.40	2	9	12	9	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Switchboard operator-receptionists	186	7.66	7.55	7.00– 8.40	1	13	32	60	60	12	5	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Typists	32	6.99	6.40	5.69– 7.38	1	8	12	6	2	–	–	1	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Typists I	26	6.29	6.25	5.42– 7.01	1	8	12	6	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Word processors	258	8.21	7.96	7.22– 9.38	1	3	42	80	49	36	36	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Word processors I	92	7.53	7.48	6.69– 7.99	1	3	26	41	13	6	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Word processors II	166	8.59	8.17	7.50– 9.80	–	–	16	49	36	30	34	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer operators	376	9.84	9.77	8.17–10.91	–	2	32	47	73	41	94	45	30	7	4	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer operators I	65	7.36	7.25	6.50– 7.84	–	–	25	27	11	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer operators II	143	8.94	8.86	8.09– 9.97	–	2	7	20	53	26	27	4	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer operators III	155	11.01	10.91	10.39–11.94	–	–	–	–	9	11	66	36	27	4	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer operators IV	13	12.51	12.17	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	5	2	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer programmers	1,061	14.34	14.05	12.96–15.53	–	–	–	–	1	14	44	74	155	230	201	122	104	42	29	20	3	17	1	1	3	–
Computer programmers I	194	12.05	12.54	10.88–13.33	–	–	–	–	1	13	38	32	51	58	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer programmers II	348	13.32	13.18	12.45–14.17	–	–	–	–	–	1	6	42	94	108	53	37	6	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer programmers III	425	15.32	14.91	14.24–16.27	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	64	144	78	79	33	13	11	–	3	–	–	–	–
Computer programmers IV	86	18.13	17.59	16.42–19.18	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	7	19	18	15	8	1	13	–	–	–	–
Computer systems analysts	520	18.84	18.42	16.67–20.56	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	7	30	40	91	62	66	64	47	34	26	19	12	14
Computer systems analysts I	129	16.44	16.48	14.78–17.68	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	6	26	25	27	15	15	9	1	2	–	–	–	–
Computer systems analysts II	264	18.39	18.08	16.79–19.48	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	15	63	47	46	41	26	8	3	4	3	2
Computer systems analysts III	100	21.91	21.48	20.22–23.35	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	5	14	20	20	13	11	3	6
Computer systems analysts IV	27	23.32	22.64	22.33–24.74	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	10	3	6	4
Drafters:																										
Drafters IV	18	12.65	12.02	11.88–13.94	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	5	6	1	–	1	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Electronics technicians	275	13.29	15.93	10.60–15.93	–	–	–	25	15	19	30	11	14	8	4	140	4	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Registered industrial nurses	8	14.08	14.05	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Des Moines, IA, July 1991 —Continued

Occupation[2]	Number of workers	Hourly earnings (in dollars)[3]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																				
		Mean	Median	Middle range	4.25 and under 5.00	5.00 – 6.00	6.00 – 7.00	7.00 – 8.00	8.00 – 9.00	9.00 – 10.00	10.00 – 11.00	11.00 – 12.00	12.00 – 13.00	13.00 – 14.00	14.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 16.00	16.00 – 17.00	17.00 – 18.00	18.00 – 19.00	19.00 – 20.00	20.00 – 21.00	21.00 – 22.00	22.00 – 23.00	23.00 – 24.00	24.00 – 25.00	25.00 – 26.00	26.00 and over
General maintenance workers	250	7.83	7.15	6.25– 8.90	–	16	94	54	24	15	25	13	2	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Machine-tool operators (toolroom)	52	15.13	17.61	10.05–18.50	–	–	–	–	–	–	15	–	7	–	–	–	1	5	23	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Maintenance carpenters	16	13.74	13.38	10.75–16.33	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	1	–	4	–	1	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Maintenance electricians	175	15.64	15.74	14.55–15.74	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	11	62	56	11	4	6	19	–	–	–	–	–	–
Maintenance machinists	49	15.59	16.37	14.61–16.44	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	14	–	35	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Maintenance mechanics (machinery)	337	14.08	14.61	11.76–16.44	–	–	–	–	7	14	13	61	12	2	138	–	85	10	–	17	–	–	–	–	–	–
Maintenance painters	11	12.66	11.45	– –	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	3	–	–	–	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Motor vehicle mechanics	214	13.00	12.09	11.10–14.00	–	–	–	–	1	–	28	38	60	2	42	19	3	18	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Stationary engineers	47	14.10	14.55	11.93–16.09	–	–	–	–	–	2	8	2	5	1	7	1	17	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tool and die makers	73	16.59	13.70	13.70–20.24	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	39	–	–	–	–	–	1	33	–	–	–	–	–
Guards	627	5.32	4.55	4.40– 5.30	409	110	38	33	7	5	–	3	7	–	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guards I	612	5.11	4.50	4.40– 5.25	409	110	38	33	7	5	–	3	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Janitors, porters, and cleaners	744	6.21	5.00	4.50– 6.50	366	163	42	38	5	8	58	1	41	–	24	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Material handling laborers	388	9.13	9.00	7.00–10.84	1	49	41	52	50	8	181	1	1	–	23	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Order fillers	508	9.42	7.72	6.99–11.01	–	–	167	102	–	10	95	21	35	–	72	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Power-truck operators: Forklift operators	358	11.99	12.01	10.0^-13.24	–	–	7	13	6	41	43	26	78	64	51	29	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Receivers	67	9.75	9.50	8.02–12.21	–	3	6	2	21	10	–	1	20	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Shippers and receivers	25	9.61	9.45	6.40–12.58	–	4	3	3	2	1	–	–	12	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Shipping packers	30	8.73	7.82	7.82– 8.81	–	–	4	14	8	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Truckdrivers	1,205	11.94	11.50	10.87–12.25	–	29	5	1	122	83	141	435	124	25	14	2	144	80	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Truckdrivers, medium truck	9	8.73	8.00	– –	–	3	4	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Truckdrivers, heavy truck	549	11.87	11.01	9.77–11.95	–	–	–	–	71	68	95	185	7	–	4	–	119	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Truckdrivers, tractor-trailer	618	12.38	11.71	11.25–12.63	–	–	–	–	49	15	45	250	117	25	10	2	25	80	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Warehousemen	473	9.81	9.62	8.50–10.83	–	9	17	53	87	175	21	29	46	–	17	19	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

[1] Excludes premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Also excluded are performance bonuses and lump-sum payments of the type negotiated in the auto and aerospace industries, as well as profit-sharing payments, attendance bonuses, Christmas or year-end bonuses, and other nonproduction bonuses. Pay increases—but not bonuses—under cost-of-living allowance clauses and incentive payments, however, are included. Hourly earnings reported for salaried workers are derived from regular salaries divided by the corresponding standard hours of work. The wages of learners, apprentices, and handicapped workers are excluded. The mean is computed for each job by totaling the earnings of all workers and dividing by the number of workers. The median designates position—one-half of the workers receive the same as or more than this rate and one-half receive the same as or less than this rate. The middle range is defined by two rates of pay; one-fourth of the workers earn the same as or less than the lower of these rates and one-fourth earn the same as or more than the higher rate. Middle ranges are not provided when fewer than 15 workers are reported.

[2] For occupations with more than one level, data are included in the overall classification when a subclassification is not shown or information to subclassify is not available.

Table 2. Establishments and workers within scope of survey and number studied in Des Moines, IA,[1] July 1991

Industry division[2]	Minimum employment in establishments in scope of survey	Number of establishments		Workers in establishments		
		Within scope of survey[3]	Studied	Within scope of survey[3]		Studied
				Number	Percent	
All divisions	50	413	120	82,307	100	52,208
Manufacturing	50	94	24	21,435	26	13,338
Nonmanufacturing[4]	50	319	96	60,872	74	38,870

[1] The Des Moines Metropolitan Statistical Area, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget through October 1984, consists of Dallas, Polk, and Warren Counties. The "workers within scope of survey" estimates shown in this table provide a reasonably accurate description of the size and composition of the labor force included in the survey. The estimates are not intended, however, to serve as a basis for comparison with other statistical series to measure employment trends or levels since (1) planning of wage surveys requires the use of establishment data compiled considerably in advance of the payroll period studied, and (2) small establishments are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[2] The *Standard Industrial Classification Manual* was used in classifying establishments by industry. All government operations are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[3] Includes all establishments with total employment at or above the minimum limitation. All outlets (within a metropolitan area or nonmetropolitan county) of nonmanufacturing companies are considered as one establishment when located within the same industry division.

[4] Includes all workers in all establishments with total employment (within the area) at or above the minimum limitation.

[5] Includes transportation, communication, and other public utilities (excluding taxicabs and services incidental to water transportation); wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; hotels and other lodging places; personal services; business services; automotive repair services and garages; motion pictures; membership organizations (excluding religious organizations); and miscellaneous services. Major industries excluded from this survey are agriculture; mining; construction; and some services (notably educational institutions and medical services).

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